States have claimed funds for most of the Schemes by February 28. The efforts of the Ministry have led to release of 86.1 % of the allocated funds to the States/UTs upto 28th February, 2002, compared to 73.6% released till 28th February during the previous year, under the relevant allocation-based programmes. Notwithstanding the advice of the Ministry to get funds released by 28th February, 2002, the proposals received after that date were also processed for releasing funds, subject to mandatory cuts.

Loknayak Jayaprakash Narayan National Mission plan for development of wastelands

5213. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new three-tier plan entitled "Loknayak Jayaprakash Narayan National Mission" has been formulated to develop vast geographical areas of wastelands or degraded lands in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the time frame drawn up for various projects identified, financial allocation made and role assigned to the Non-Government organizations and others; and

(c) the specifics of State-wise sub-plans drawn up for increasing the productivity of land, especially in the desert State of Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) to (c) At present, the Programmes relating to conservation, development and management of land resources are being handled in different Ministries/ Departments with separate Guidelines and varying funding patterns. The need has been felt to put in place an integrated mechanism capable of responding effectively to the challenges of managing the country's land resources. While the matter is under consideration, the State Governments have also been advised to prepare Perspective Plans for the development of wastelands/degraded lands in a time bound manner.